

DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

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TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

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TOSEC 133

FOR MCCLOSKEY AND PAO

SUBJ: AMERICAN NEWS AND COMMENT

1. FOLLOWING ARE TV/RADIO HIGHLIGHTS FOR MORNING, JULY 6:

SECRETARY IN VN

FRANK BLAIR, NBC-TV (TODAY) - SECRETARY OF STATE WILLIAM ROGERS, COMPLETING HIS THREE-DAY VISIT TO SAIGON, PROMISED CONTINUING AIR STRIKES AGAINST COMMUNIST FORCES INSIDE CAMBODIA AND CONTINUING MILITARY AND ECONOMIC AID TO THE LON NOL GOVERNMENT.

NEIL STRAWSER, CBS RADIO (9:00 A.M.) - SECRETARY OF STATE ROGERS WENT TOURING IN SVN TODAY AND CAME UP WITH SOME PUBLIC OPTIMISM FOR NEWSMEN. THE SECRETARY AND FOREIGN MINISTERS OF OTHER VN ALLIES INSPECTED A MODEL VILLAGE IN THE MEKONG DELTA. SECURITY HELICOPTERS HOVERED OVERHEAD, BUT ROGERS SAID HE FOUND THE SECURITY FACTOR MUCH BETTER THAN HIS VISIT A YEAR AGO. THE GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN CHARGE, HE SAID:

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OP PERCENT OF VN IS NOW SECURE. PEOPLE TALK ABOUT THE WAR BEING ENLARGED; SAID ROGERS: I THINK THEY ARE MISTAKEN. THE WAR ACTUALLY HAS DE-ESCALATED AND RECEDED.

ART KEMP, NBC RADIO FROM SAIGON - SECRETARY OF STATE ROGERS, ON A VISIT TO A MEKONG DELTA SHOWCASE PACIFICATION PROJECT, TOLD NEWSMEN HE WAS IMPRESSED WITH THE PROGRESS MADE IN BOTH PACIFICATION AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT, BUT MAINLY WITH THE INCREASE IN SECURITY.. ALL THAT MEANS THE GOVERNMENT WAS THEN ABLE TO IN EFFECT TAKE CHARGE OF THE COUNTRY. NINETY PERCENT OF SVN IS NOW SECURE, AND THAT MEANS IN ONE SENSE THAT THE WAR ISN'T BEING CONDUCTED IN 90 PERCENT OF SVN. SO WHEN PEOPLE TALK

ABOUT THE WAR BEINGE

NLARGED I THINK THEY ARE MISTAKEN. THE WAR ACTUALLY HAS RECEDED, DE-ESCALATED AND RECEDED SINCE MY LAST VISIT. ROGERS NEXT GOES TO JAPAN FOR MEETINGS WITH AMERICAN DIPLOMATS STATIONED IN ASIA AND TALKS ON OVERALL ADMINISTRATION POLICY IN THIS AREA.

SOVIET-ROMANIAN AFFAIRS

ANGUS KORLEY, NBC RADIO FROM MOSCOW - A SOVIET DELEGATION HEADED BY PREMIER KOSYGIN RATHER THAN COMMUNIST PARTY CHIEF BREZHNEV FLEW TO ROMANIA THIS MORNING TO SIGN THE NEW TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP. BREZHNEV'S WITHDRAWAL HAS BEEN ATTRIBUTED TO A BAD HEAD COLD, BUT THIS HAS NOT FORESTALLED THE BELIEF HIS ILLNESS IS A QUIET BUT UNMISTAKABLE WAY OF SHOWING SOVIET DISAGREEMENT WITH ROMANIA'S PERSISTENT INDEPENDENCE. IN FACT, ONE POINT TO BE WATCHED FOR WHEN THE TREATY TEXT IS MADE PUBLIC IS THE EXTENT IT MAY GO TOWARDS APPROVING SOVIET AUTHORITY TO INTERVENE IN ROMANIAN AFFAIRS. ONLY FRIDAY, ROMANIAN COMMUNIST CHIEF CEAUSESCU RENEWED PUBLICLY HIS SUPPORT FOR NON-INTERFERENCE. TODAY'S SOVIET PARTY INCLUDES FOREIGN MINISTER GROMYKO AND LEADING THEORETICIAN MIKHAIL SOKOLOV AS WELL AS KOSYGIN.

VN DEBATE

MARVIN KALB, CBS RADIO (FIRST LINE REPORT) - ...LAST WEEK THE PRESIDENT ONCE AGAIN EXPRESSED HIS VIEW THAT HE WILL NOT ALLOW THIS COUNTRY TO BE HUMILIATED BY THE NVNESE...SENATOR FULBRIGHT, AMONG OTHERS, BELIEVES THE GREATER HUMILIATION, GREATER THAN DEFEAT AT THE HANDS OF NVN, IS A CONTINUATION OF THE VN WAR, AND WITH THAT A PURSUIT OF WHAT FULBRIGHT CALLS AN ILLUSION OF

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VICTORY IN A WAR IN WHICH THERE IS NO VICTORY..CLEARLY THOSE WHO HOLD THE PRESIDENT'S VIEW FEEL IN A GLOOMY, PESSIMISTIC WAY THAT THE NATION COULD NOT BEAR THE THOUGHT OF DEFEAT, IN QUOTES, AND THAT IF FACED WITH SUCH A DEFEAT, THE NATION WOULD REVERT TO THE DAYS OF MCCARTHYISM. FINGERS WOULD BE POINTED, ACCUSATIONS LEVELED: WHO LOST VN? THAT KIND OF QUESTION ECHOES THE EARLIER ONE, WHO LOST CHINA? THOSE WHO HOLD THE FULBRIGHT VIEW CHARGE THAT VP AGNEW HAS ALREADY REVERTED TO SOME OF THE TACTICS OF THE MCCARTHY DAYS BY ATTACKING SOME SENATORS AND FORMER AMBASSADORS SUCH AS HARRIMAN AND VANCE, SUGGESTING THAT THEY HAVE BEEN...SOFT ON COMMUNISM. MOREOVER, THOSE WHO SEE HUMILIATION IN THE CONTINUATION OF THE WAR HAVE AN IDEALISTIC VISION OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AS BEING BASICALLY STRONG ENOUGH NOT TO WIN THE VN WAR. TO THEM THIS IS NOT THE SAME AS DEFEAT, AND THEY BELIEVE THAT PRESIDENT NIXON IS SETTING UP A STRAWMAN JUST TO KNOCK HIM DOWN. WHITE HOUSE OFFICIALS ARGUE THE CONTRARY, STATE FLATELY THAT THE PRESIDENT IS DETERMINED TO AVOID A NEW ISOLATIONISM, A NEW MCCARTHYISM IN THE US, AND THAT IS WHY HE INSISTS UPON HIS OWN VIEW OF A FAIR SETTLEMENT IN VN.

2. TRANSCRIPTS OF JULY 4 HUNTLEY-BRANKLEY REPORT AND CBS EVENING NEWS FOLLOW:

NBC-TV (HUNTLEY-BRINKLEY REPORT)

CHET HUNTLEY: PRESIDENT NIXON CONFERRED FOR SEVERAL HOURS TODAY WITH DAVID BRUCE, HIS NEW CHIEF NEGOTIATOR TO THE VIETNAM PEACE TALKS IN PARIS.

ALSO AT THE MEETING IN SAN CLEMENTE WERE PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR HENRY KISSINGER, UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE ALEXIS JOHNSON, AND THE MAN WHO HAS BEEN THE ACTING CHIEF NEGOTIATOR IN PARIS, PHILLIP HABIB.

AFTERWARDS THE PRESIDENT REMARKED AGAIN THAT THE COUNTRY IS FORTUNATE TO HAVE A MAN WITH BRUCE'S EXPERIENCE FOR THE ASSIGNMENT.

HERB KAPLOW: THE NEW NEGOTIATOR WAS GETTING HIS FIRST INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE PRESIDENT. NO DETAILS CAME OUT OF THE SESSION, BUT THE PRESIDENT HAS SAID BRUCE WILL ENJOY CONSIDERABLE

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FLEXIBILITY IN PARIS, WHICH WAS ONE OF THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH THE SEVENTY-TWO YEAR OLD AMBASSADOR TOOK THE ASSIGNMENT.

BRUCE, A DEMOCRAT WITH A DISTINGUISHED DIPLOMATIC BACKGROUND, HAS PROVED TO BE A POPULAR CHOICE AT HOME. MR. NIXON HOPES THIS NEW FIGURE, UNENCUMBERED BY TIES WITH PAST VIETNAM POLICY, WILL ALSO BE THE RIGHT MAN TO PUT BEFORE THE NORTH VIETNAMESE: REASONABLE BUT STRONG.

AFTER THEIR HOUR AND A HALF MEETING THIS MORNING, THE MEN MOVED OUTSIDE THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE TO SPEAK BRIEFLY WITH REPORTERS.

PRESIDENT RICHARD NIXON: I WOULD LIKE TO SAY AGAIN THAT I THINK THE NATION IS MOST FORTUNATE TO HAVE A MAN WITH THE GREAT WEALTH OF EXPERIENCE IN DIPLOMACY TO TAKE THIS ASSIGNMENT AS CHIEF OF OUR DELEGATION IN PARIS. AMBASSADOR BRUCE, AS I POINTED OUT THE OTHER NIGHT, IS UNIQUE PERHAPS IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THIS COUNTRY IN THE NUMBER OF VERY IMPORTANT POSTS THAT HE HAS FILLED. AND WE'RE GLAD THAT HE RETURNS TO DIPLOMATIC SERVICE FOR THIS ASSIGNMENT.

AMBASSADOR DAVID BRUCE: MR. PRESIDENT, I FEEL DEEPLY HONORED AT HAVING BEEN GIVEN THIS ASSIGNMENT. IT'S ONE WHICH IS FOREIGN TO MY EXPERIENCE. BUT IF I CAN MAKE ANY CONTRIBUTION, NO MATTER HOW SLIGHT, TO BRINGING ABOUT A SETTLEMENT OF THE DIFFICULTIES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, I WILL FEEL OVERJOYED.

I'M NOT GOING TO MAKE ANY STATEMENT UNTIL I'VE TAKEN UP MY DUTIES, WHICH WILL BE ABOUT THE FIRST OF AUGUST IN PARIS.

KAPLOW: NOW THAT THE CAMBODIAN OPERATION HAS ENDED, NOW THAT THERE IS A NEW U.S. NEGOTIATOR -- SOMETHING THAT THE OTHER SIDE ASKED FOR -- THE PRESIDENT FEELS THIS IS THE CRITICAL MOMENT IN ENDING THE WAR.

IT IS BELIEVED THAT THE OTHER SIDE IS REASSESSING ITS NEGOTIATING POSITION, AND THE PRESIDENT HOPES THIS WILL RESULT IN A DECISION MOVING TOWARD AN AGREEMENT.

PRESIDENTIAL AIDES SAY MR. NIXON IS WILLING TO MAKE FURTHER CONCILIATORY MOVES. BUT THAT WILL DEPEND ON WHAT THE OTHER

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SIDE DOES NOW. AND NO ONE HERE IS READY TO BET MUCH NOW THAT  
THE OTHER SIDE IS PREPARED TO DEAL ON A BASIS THAT THE  
PRESIDENT FEELS IS JUST.

HERBERT KAPLOW, NBC NEWS, WITH THE PRESIDENT IN SAN CLEMENTE.

HUNTLEY: SECRETARY OF STATE ROGERS MET IN SAIGON WITH  
PRESIDENT THIEU. BUT THEY FAILED TO AGREE ON A JOINT PEACE  
PROPOSAL TO BE PRESENTED AT THE PARIS TALKS.

ROGERS IS IN VIETNAM FOR THREE DAYS, AND WILL SEE THE  
FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THAILAND, SOUTH KOREA, AUSTRALIA AND NEW  
ZEALAND. BUT HE HAS NO FURTHER MEETINGS SCHEDULED WITH THIEU.

CBS-TV (EVENING NEWS)

ROGER MUDD: IN SAIGON TODAY, SECRETARY OF STATE ROGERS  
MET WITH SOUTH VIETNAMESE PRESIDENT THIEU, BUT WITHOUT  
REACHING ANY AGREEMENT ON POSSIBLE NEW MOVES AT THE PARIS TALKS.

ROGERS SAID ON ARRIVING NOW THAT PRESIDENT NIXON HAS  
APPOINTED A NEW CHIEF NEGOTIATOR TO PARIS, IT IS TIME FOR  
SERIOUS DIPLOMACY.

AT THE WESTERN WHITE HOUSE, MR. NIXON MET TODAY WITH HIS  
NEW NEGOTIATOR, DAVID BRUCE. FROM CALIFORNIA, DAN RATHER HAS  
THE STORY:

DAN RATHER: BEFORE THIS WEEK, PRESIDENT NIXON NEVER REALLY  
KNEW DAVID BRUCE, HIS SEVENTY-TWO YEAR OLD NEW CHIEF VIETNAM  
NEGOTIATOR. THEY SPENT MOST OF TODAY TALKING.

THE NECESSITY FOR MEETING WITH BRUCE IS ONE OF THE REASONS  
GIVEN BY THE PRESIDENT'S PUBLIC RELATIONS MEN FOR MR. NIXON'S  
NOT ATTENDING THE WASHINGTON FOURTH OF JULY RALLY. FOR NEWSMEN,  
THE PRESIDENT SIMPLY BROUGHT BRUCE OUTSIDE FOR AN INTRODUCTION.  
THERE WERE NO MAJOR ANNOUNCEMENTS.

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OUT THE OTHER NIGHT, IS UNIQUE PERHAPS IN THE DIPLOMATIC  
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I'M NOT GOING TO MAKE ANY STATEMENT UNTIL I'VE TAKEN UP MY DUTIES. THIS WILL BE ABOUT THE FIRST OF AUGUST IN PARIS. AND MEANWHILE I HOPE YOU WON'T ASK ME QUESTIONS BECAUSE, QUITE FRANKLY, I'D BE QUITE UNABLE TO ANSWER THEM EVEN WITH THE BEST OF GOOD WILL.

RATHER: AMBASSADOR PHILLIP HABIB, STANDING NEXT TO BRUCE, HAS HEADED THE PEACE TALKS. THE PRESIDENT SAID HABIB SOON WILL GET AN IMPORTANT NEW JOB.

MR. NIXON THEN DROVE THE GROUP IN ONE OF HIS SUPER GOLF CARTS TO LUNCH.

DAN RATHER, CBS NEWS, WITH THE PRESIDENTIAL PARTY IN CALIFORNIA.  
JOHNSON

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